



COLUMBIA RIVER IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

12 Month Work Plan

April 30, 2006

Purpose: The Columbia River Implementation 12 Month Plan is designed to identify near and longer term tasks and objectives that move the requirements of the Columbia River legislation (HB 2860) forward while building agency capacity. The plan focuses on specific near term critical path activities within a twelve (12) month period that meet the reporting requirements of the legislation, while building a strong foundation for a sustained Columbia River program.

Objectives of the 12 Month Plan:

1. An interim organizational structure defined.
2. Roles and accountability for specific near term objectives and plan for long term goals identified.
3. Near term activities identified and resource assignments defined for responsible staff with specific completion dates agreed upon.

Implement Interim Columbia River Implementation Team

Responsible parties: Columbia River Implementation Team

Due Date: July 1, 2006 have core work team (13 FTE) hired and on-board

Long term tasks and planning: The Columbia River Implementation Team organizational structure is an interim effort to accomplish near term objectives while maintaining a flexible and adaptable organization over the next 12 months. For that reason, all Columbia River Implementation Project positions are to be classified either "temporary" or "project" to provide the greatest degree of discretion for what may be needed in the future.

Programmatic Columbia River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

The Columbia River Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is intended to develop the policy framework and procedural aspects for implementation of the Columbia River legislation (HB 2860). The agency's objective is to answer as many questions as possible about how and when water is delivered through the framework of the EIS. As a result, some unforeseen issues may arise that could result in additional environmental review and analysis.

Programmatic Columbia River Environmental Impact Statement

Due date for Final EIS: February 15, 2007

Columbia River Policy Working Group

The group will consist of interested parties (stakeholders, governments, agencies) to advise Ecology on policies affecting program implementation, and to develop an initial framework to guide the agency's longer-term implementation of the Columbia River legislation. The work group will be linked, as necessary, to the concurrent EIS planning process now underway.

Completion date (Framework): December 2006

Columbia River Mainstem Storage Alternatives

Columbia River Main Stem Storage Alternatives Study
Target completion date: October 2010

Near term activities:

1. **Work with Reclamation and their contractor to complete the Storage Appraisal Report, select 4 sites for review – July 2006**
2. **Secure Congressional authorization for a Columbia River Storage Feasibility Analysis, and work with Reclamation to complete the review.**

Note: It seems likely that other storage alternatives will be identified for future study in other locations within the Columbia Basin in Washington. The study of these four pump storage sites adjacent to the mainstem is not intended to preclude additional studies that may be identified in the future.

Surface Water Supply for the Odessa

Perform necessary oversight activities to ensure that the engineering and economic review and analysis is completed in a timely manner by Reclamation.

Near term activities:

1. **Appraisal Level report completed:** October 2007
2. **Reclamation Feasibility Analysis completed:** August 2010
 - Engineering design work – Pinto – potholes: (Target dates: October 2007- June 2010)
 - Odessa – phase II – 2010 → Long term: (Target date – August 2010)

Columbia River Water Supply and Demand Forecasting

In compliance with the intent of the Columbia River legislation, Ecology will seek to inform water users, the Governor, and the Legislature regarding long term trends affecting water supply in the Columbia Basin. The agency's inventory of projects will offer short term and long term strategies to offset the risks of supply variability resulting from drought or other factors.

Near term activities:

1. **Develop a strategy to build or contract for a water supply and demand forecasting capacity for the Columbia River:** July 2006
2. **Develop scope of work for forecasting water supply conditions for contractor and award a contract:** July 2006
3. **Report to legislators:** November 2006

Columbia River Water Use Data

Ecology will develop data and systems to publish aggregate water use data on Ecology's Columbia River Implementation Project Web site by June 30, 2009. This data is intended to provide the basis for developing a composite water budget to inform water users and other interested stakeholders, and state elected officials.

Interim Product: Columbia River Water Use Inventory

Target date: estimated at July 1, 2007

Final Product: Columbia River Water Balance published on Ecology's Web site, June 2009

Columbia River Implementation Project Conservation and Trust Water Efforts

To comply with the intent of the Legislature, Ecology will work in collaboration with interested stakeholders and agencies to develop a Columbia River Water Supply Inventory consisting of specific projects. To accomplish this task and implement projects, the agency will need new capacity for conservation and Trust Water Program related activities.

Near term tasks:

1. **Form a conservation project development working group:** June 2006
2. **Develop a scoping process:** estimated by August 2006
3. **Columbia River Implementation Project Conservation/Trust Program defined with specific planning documents for implementation.** Target date: November 2006

Voluntary Regional Agreements (VRAs)

Develop and articulate the Voluntary Regional Agreement framework for the Columbia River Implementation Project.

Near term tasks:

1. Columbia/Snake – ready for action pending completion of the SEPA review.
2. Other VRAs?
3. Define the consultation process for county, state and federal governments.
4. Continue working with interested tribal governments regarding implementation.

Tribal Consultation Process Developed and Initiated for the Columbia River Implementation Project

Develop and articulate a Tribal Consultation framework for the Columbia River Implementation Project.

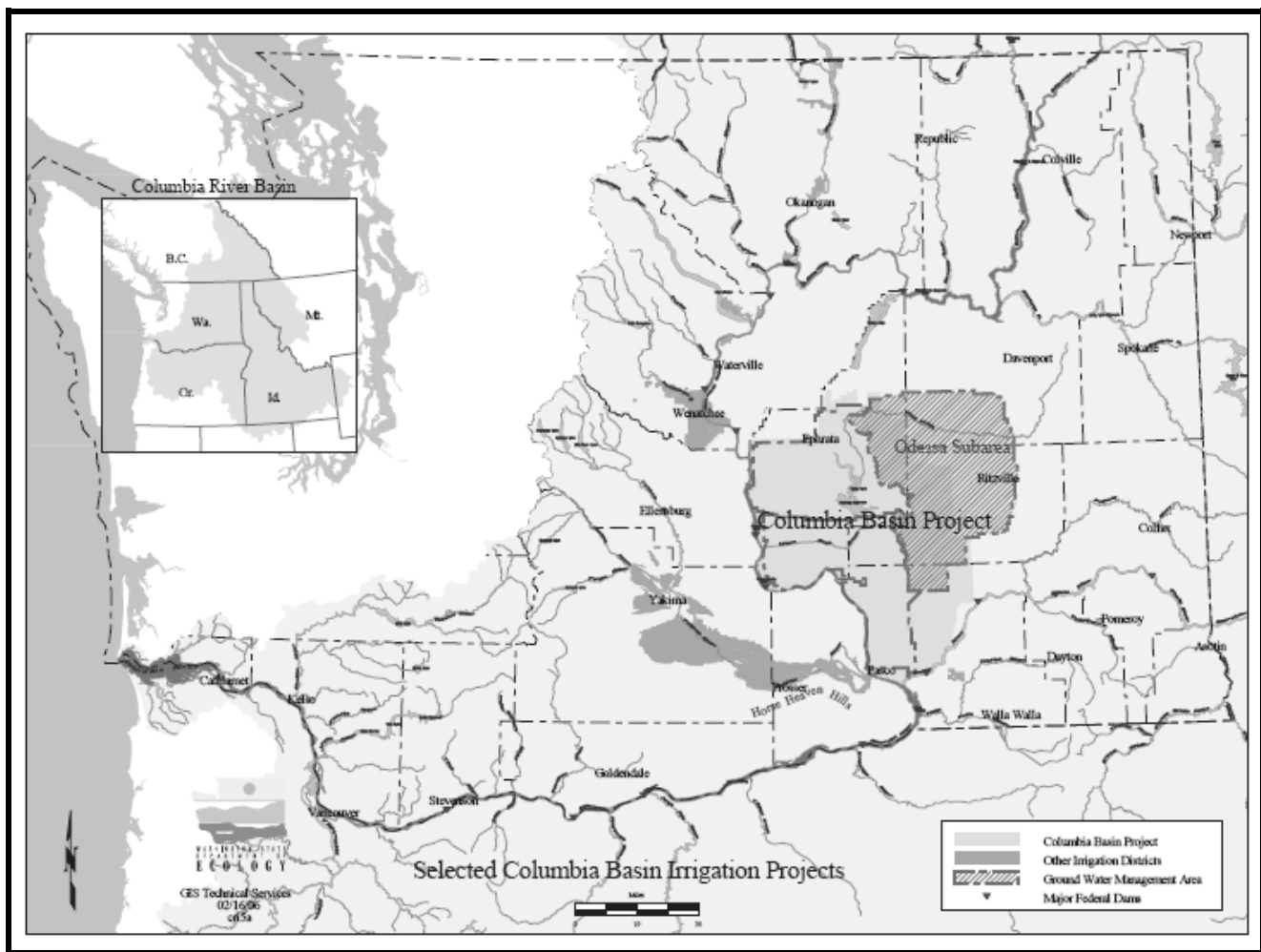
Financial Analysis/Economic Analysis for the Columbia River Implementation Project

Develop a financial and economic analysis capacity for the Columbia River Implementation Project.

Negotiate Hanford Reach Studies

The current lead staff for relicensing has taken responsibility to work with the ERO Water Quality and CRO Water Quality FERC Relicensing Team, American Rivers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Mid-Columbia PUDs to develop specific study elements to be achieved as a result of funding provided by the Legislature for this purpose.

Completion date: December 2006



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